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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Significance of Long-range Propaganda
Campaign on Berlin Question

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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On 10 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: [REDACTED]

1. A meeting of the Volksrat's Central Propaganda Committee under the chairmanship of Bernhard von Mutius on 20 September 1948 decided on a large-scale increase of Volksrat propaganda with special emphasis on:
 - a. The constitutional plan to be presented to the Volkskongress;
 - b. Support of the Soviet Zone Two-Year Plan;
 - c. The Berlin problem.
 2. Mutius explained that the primary purpose of the new propaganda campaign will be to convince the people that the unilateral measures of the Western Powers were the cause of present difficulties. The campaign will start by the end of September and will be gradually intensified over a period of several months. In the course of the meeting, Mutius stated: "Unfortunately we have to face the fact that the Berlin problem will be presented to the United Nations. Therefore, our campaign must unmask the guilty before the world's public opinion."
 3. In view of the difficult situation, the Berlin committee of the Volksrat will concentrate on propagandizing the Berlin problem, even at the expense of points a. and b. of the planned campaign. A committee was formed under Karl Litke to assemble "factual" data emphasizing the western powers' responsibility. A feature of the coming campaign will be the dissemination of posters and leaflets contrasting the six-power London Declaration with the Warsaw Declaration of Foreign Ministers, which demanded the withdrawal of occupation troops and the conclusion of a German peace treaty. The collection of money in the Soviet Zone is also being planned under the motto: "The Zone supports Berlin". Dissemination of propaganda material will be a Volksrat responsibility with support from SED Kreis committees in the eastern sector. The storage of propaganda material in western sector offices will be forbidden.
 4. The above plans were instigated by Ulbricht, Gniffke, and Litke. The next meeting of the Central Propaganda Committee is scheduled for 29 September 1948.
- 25X1A (Comment: The report is believed to be significant because it indicates that the high-level SED leadership expects to win support in western Berlin)

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through propaganda measures over a period of months. Source emphatically denies the validity of reports that the SED will attempt the seizure of the western sectors by force. This stands in contrast to reports which have stated that SED elements, supported by Soviet Zone police and MVD troops, will seize the western sectors of Berlin by 30 October 1948.)

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